WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for controlling a wheel brake of a vehicle, the method comprising:

determining a road slope;

maintaining a braking force at a wheel independently of an extent of a brake pedal actuation, in at least one operating state with the brake pedal depressed, if the road slope points in a direction of a future travel direction of the vehicle; and

reducing the braking force for at least one condition.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the braking force is maintained if at least one of the following is satisfied: a drive unit is running; the vehicle is at a complete standstill; a gear is engaged; and the brake pedal is depressed.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the braking force is reduced if at least one of the following is recognized: a driver wishes to make a standing start; a neutral gear is engaged; and the road slope is no longer in a travel direction.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the braking force is reduced if the brake pedal is released.

5. A method for controlling a wheel brake of a vehicle, a braking force being buildable at the wheel brake of vehicle independently of a brake pedal actuation in at least one operating state, the method comprising:

building up the braking force independently of an engagement of a service brake if a parking brake is engaged with the vehicle standing still; and

reducing the braking force if a torque of a drive unit is sufficient to propel the vehicle forward against the road slope.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the braking force is only built up if the road slope is in a travel direction of the vehicle.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein a braking pressure is built up if at least one of the vehicle rolls backwards and a maintained braking force drops during this operating state.

8. A method for controlling a wheel brake of a vehicle, the method comprising:

maintaining a braking force at a wheel independently of an extent of a brake pedal actuation, in at least one operating state with the brake pedal depressed; and

building up the braking force with a braking pressure maintained if the braking pressure falls below a pressure critical with regard to the vehicle rolling away, the braking pressure prevailing in the wheel brake being determined according to a leakage model.

9. A device for controlling a wheel brake of a vehicle, the device comprising:

a control unit for activating a wheel brake control device so that, in at least one operating state, a braking force is one of maintained and built up at the wheel brake of the vehicle independently of an extent of a brake pedal actuation;

wherein the control unit is operable for determining a variable describing a road slope and for maintaining the braking force if the road slope points in a future travel direction.

10. A device for controlling a wheel brake of a vehicle, the device comprising:

a control unit for activating a wheel brake control device so that, in at least one operating state, a braking force is one of maintained and

built up at the wheel brake of the vehicle independently of an extent of a pedal actuation;

wherein the control unit is operable for determining a variable describing an activation of a parking brake and for initiating a buildup of the braking force independently of an operation of a service brake if the parking brake is engaged with the vehicle standing still, the control unit reducing the braking pressure if a torque of a drive unit is sufficient to propel the vehicle forwards against a road slope.

11. A storage medium for storing at least one computer program, wherein the at least one stored computer program is operable for executing in a computing unit a method for controlling a wheel brake of a vehicle, the method comprising:

determining a road slope;

maintaining a braking force at a wheel independently of an extent of a brake pedal actuation, in at least one operating state with the brake pedal depressed, if the road slope points in a direction of a future travel direction of the vehicle; and

reducing the braking force for at least one condition.

12. A storage medium for storing at least one computer program, wherein the at least one stored computer program is operable for executing in a computing unit a method for controlling a wheel brake of a vehicle, a braking force being buildable at the wheel brake of vehicle independently of a brake pedal actuation in at least one operating state, the method comprising:

building up the braking force independently of an engagement of a service brake if a parking brake is engaged with the vehicle standing still; and

reducing the braking force if a torque of a drive unit is sufficient to propel the vehicle

forward against the road slope.

13. A storage medium for storing at least one computer program, wherein the at least one stored computer program is operable for executing in a computing unit a method for controlling a wheel brake of a vehicle, the method comprising:

maintaining a braking force at a wheel independently of an extent of a brake pedal actuation, in at least one operating state with the brake pedal depressed; and

building up the braking force with a braking pressure maintained if the braking pressure falls below a pressure critical with regard to the vehicle rolling away, the braking pressure prevailing in the wheel brake being determined according to a leakage model.